



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

56 West Main Street
Westminster, MD 21158
Phone (410) 848-9000
Fax (410) 848-7476

Press Release

WESTMINSTER SKATE PARK RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 AT 3:30 P. M.

WESTMINSTER SKATE PARK

CORNER OF TUC ROAD AND LOCUST AVENUE

PLEASE RSVP TO 410-848-9393

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!

Proud to announce its newest skateboarding and BMX bike riding facility, the City of Westminster is also announcing its award from the Maryland Municipal League for the parks construction and design.

Originally installed in May 1999, the skateboard park was so popular with skateboarders and so heavily utilized that it soon needed renovation. In 2007, the City applied and received grant funding in the amount of \$130,000 from Project Open Space from the State of Maryland. Several local parents of skateboarders, and two parents who are themselves skateboarders, stepped forward and offered to help with the project and spent a two day weekend fact finding survey to determine what the skateboarders in the area wanted to see in the new park. Over 75 skateboarders participated with their input. Supplementing this local initiative, the group searched the internet to explore the latest innovations in skate parks. And using their skills in

engineering, design, and computer technology, they developed a vision for the park along with a Request for Proposal. This RFP was put out for bid in November and the response was good, with several companies submitting bids. Unfortunately, the lowest bid was \$400,000, way over the Project Open Space funding.

Not to be deterred in their efforts to produce a first-class skateboard park for their children, the group approached the Carroll County Career and Technology Center with the idea of using the students in various programs to create the ramps. The group of parents was soon joined by an enthusiastic principal, five teachers and 100 students in the effort to build the skate park envisioned in the RFP. Never to be underestimated, the Carroll County Career and Technology Center faculty and students embraced this project and all areas became involved:

- The wood working shop was responsible for the actual construction of the ramps and treatment of the wood.
- The fashion design class used the pattern provided from the White Fish Skate Company to transfer the design to manila board so that it could be used to replicate the ramps in other communities.
- The Metal and Welding working shop created coping, transition plates and stamped handrail post supports as well as fabricated brackets
- The welding class did the weld work
- The Communications Department, in conjunction with the Community Media Center, religiously videotaped every aspect of the construction to produce a documentary film for our public cable channel and websites.

Using the Carroll County Career and Technology Center Students was a stroke of genius because many of the students actually used the skateboard park and had a vested interest in the finished product. When the students found out they were going to be participating in the actual building of the park the following school year, their excitement was contagious. And soon after they returned to school in the fall, the finished ramps threatened to take over the entire parking area of the Carroll County Career and Technology Center before they could be moved to the park.

At the same time, the Carroll County Career and Technology Center students were constructing the ramps; the City was busy preparing the existing skateboard park site. In November, the Street Department dismantled the old ramps and removed the blacktop. Eighty percent of the blacktop and 100% of the metal was able to be recycled by a local contractor. Two days before Thanksgiving, the new concrete slab was poured and in January the school system relocated the ramps from the Carroll County Career and Technology Center to the skateboard park location.

Unfortunately, during the construction phase of this project, one of the skateboarder students on the committee was involved in a fatal car accident. In honor of his contribution to the project, a memorial day will be held on June 20 featuring a skating tournament, autograph signing, demonstrations and a memorial concert. A memorial garden will be planted on the site, featuring a bench dedicated to the student.

So in appreciation for a job well done by our local students and by City, please come out and help us celebrate the dedication of the park on June 12 at 3:30 pm.

